

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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STATE TROOPERS ADVISE MOTORISTS TO DRIVE WITH CAUTION

Heavy Rainfall and Possible Flooding Forecast for Alabama

MONTGOMERY — Alabama state troopers urge motorists to drive with extreme caution as weekend weather forecasts indicate heavy rain and possible flooding as Tropical Storm Arlene makes landfall. Public Safety Director Col. W.M. Coppage said troopers were on standby to assist with emergency response should flooding develop in the state's southern section.

Coppage asked that drivers keep a close watch on developing weather conditions and encouraged motorists to monitor local television and radio broadcasts for information on weather and roadway conditions. He asked that they contact trooper posts only to report traffic crashes or other emergencies so phone lines would be open for any emergency calls. He added that Public Safety's Web site, www.dps.state.al.us, includes a link to the ALDOT's list of emergency road closures.

Troopers offer the following suggestions to help insure the safety of motorists during inclement weather:

- Avoid travel during heavy downpours unless absolutely necessary.
- Turn on lights and windshield wipers.
- Never attempt to drive across a water-covered roadway. Water depth and movement can be deceptive.
- Drive at a lower speed appropriate for road and weather conditions.

Coppage reminded drivers that wet, slippery roadways and decreased visibility resulting from heavy rainfall make for extremely hazardous driving. He stressed the importance of reducing driving speeds during inclement weather, along with keeping a safe distance between vehicles.

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